



CITY of HAYTI

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August 8, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Regarding: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As the Mayor of Hayti, Missouri, I am very familiar with the challenges that rural communities face when it comes to educational opportunities, health care options and economic development. In terms of having access to state-of-the-art technology, rural communities are often left behind. This technology gap must not continue if we are going to succeed as a nation.

In this year's State of the Union Address, President Obama spoke of the need to connect every part of America to the digital age. His goal of deploying the next generation of high speed wireless coverage to 98% of all Americans is a very ambitious goal. The potential for universal broadband holds tremendous promise for everyone, especially those of us living in a rural community.

The proposed AT&T/T-Mobile merger has the potential to bridge the technology gap that rural communities like Hayti currently face. Advanced wireless and broadband enabled technology could open the doors to advancements in education, health care and most importantly, job creation. Students and educators from all over the world could be connected for a more enhanced learning experience. Telemedicine could bring specialized practices to rural communities to provide better health care. Geography and size would no longer matter as a mobile broadband network would give small businesses the tools they need to compete with metropolitan areas and larger companies.

I am very proud to represent the City of Hayti. I also know that steps must be taken to increase accessibility and expand the availability of technology so that Hayti has the opportunity to grow and thrive. I urge you to consider the benefits this merger will have on rural communities and approve the transaction.

Sincerely,

Bobby Watkins, Mayor
City of Hayti, Missouri